

In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 16, 29, 69-71, 78-80, and 87-89; amend Claims 58-62, 64-68, 73-77, and 82-86; and add Claims 90-95, all as shown below. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute any originally presented or canceled claims in a continuing or future application.

1-56 . (Canceled).

57. (Original) A system for maintaining security in a distributed computing environment, comprising:

- a policy manager for managing a security policy; and
- an application guard for managing access to securable components including at least one application as specified by the security policy.

58. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 57 ~~A system for maintaining security in a distributed computing environment, comprising:~~

- ~~a policy manager for managing a security policy; and~~
- ~~an application guard for managing access to securable components~~ including a function within ~~[[an]]~~ the application as specified by the security policy.

59. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 57 ~~A system for maintaining security in a distributed computing environment, comprising:~~

- ~~a policy manager for managing a security policy; and~~
- ~~an application guard for managing access to securable components~~ including a procedure within ~~[[an]]~~ the application as specified by the security policy.

60. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 57 ~~A system for maintaining security in a distributed computing environment, comprising:~~

- ~~a policy manager for managing a security policy; and~~

~~an application guard for managing access to securable components~~ including a data structure within ~~[[an]]~~ the application as specified by the security policy.

61. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 57 ~~A system for maintaining security in a distributed computing environment, comprising:~~

~~a policy manager for managing a security policy; and~~

~~an application guard for managing access to securable components~~ including a database object within referenced by ~~[[an]]~~ the application as specified by the security policy.

62. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 57 ~~A system for maintaining security in a distributed computing environment, comprising:~~

~~a policy manager for managing a security policy; and~~

~~an application guard for managing access to securable components~~ including a file system object referenced by ~~[[an]]~~ the application as specified by the security policy.

63. (Original) A method for maintaining security in a distributed computing environment, comprising:

managing a security policy via a policy manager; and

managing access via an application guard to securable components including at least one application as specified by the security policy.

64. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 63 ~~A method for maintaining security in a distributed computing environment, comprising:~~

~~managing a security policy via a policy manager; and~~

~~managing access via an application guard to securable components~~ including a function within ~~[[an]]~~ the application as specified by the security policy.

65. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 63 ~~A method for maintaining security in a distributed computing environment, comprising:~~

~~managing a security policy via a policy manager; and~~
~~managing access via an application guard to securable components including a procedure~~
within ~~[[an]]~~ the application as specified by the security policy.

66. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 63 ~~A method for maintaining security in a distributed computing environment, comprising:~~

~~managing a security policy via a policy manager; and~~
~~managing access via an application guard to securable components including a data~~
structure within ~~[[an]]~~ the application as specified by the security policy.

67. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 63 ~~A method for maintaining security in a distributed computing environment, comprising:~~

~~managing a security policy via a policy manager; and~~
~~managing access via an application guard to securable components including a database~~
object referenced by ~~[[an]]~~ the application as specified by the security policy.

68. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 63 ~~A method for maintaining security in a distributed computing environment, comprising:~~

~~managing a security policy via a policy manager; and~~
~~managing access via an application guard to securable components including a file system~~
object referenced by ~~[[an]]~~ the application as specified by the security policy.

69-71. (Canceled).

72. (Original) A method for maintaining security in a distributed computing environment, comprising the steps of:

providing a policy manager to manage a security policy; and
providing an application guard to manage access to securable components including at least one application as specified by the security policy.

73. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 72 ~~A method for maintaining security in a distributed computing environment, comprising the steps of:~~

~~providing a policy manager to manage a security policy; and
providing an application guard to manage access to securable components including a function within [[an]] the application as specified by the security policy.~~

74. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 72 ~~A method for maintaining security in a distributed computing environment, comprising the steps of:~~

~~providing a policy manager to manage a security policy; and
providing an application guard to manage access to securable components including a procedure within [[an]] the application as specified by the security policy.~~

75. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 72 ~~A method for maintaining security in a distributed computing environment, comprising the steps of:~~

~~providing a policy manager to manage a security policy; and
providing an application guard to manage access to securable components including a data structure within [[an]] the application as specified by the security policy.~~

76. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 72 ~~A method for maintaining security in a distributed computing environment, comprising the steps of:~~

~~providing a policy manager to manage a security policy; and
providing an application guard to manage access to securable components including a database object referenced by [[an]] the application as specified by the security policy.~~

77. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 72 ~~A method for maintaining security in a distributed computing environment, comprising the steps of:~~

~~providing a policy manager to manage a security policy; and~~
~~providing an application guard to manage access to securable components including a file system object referenced by [[an]] the application as specified by the security policy.~~

78-80. (Canceled).

81. (Original) A computer readable storage medium having stored thereon a method for maintaining security in a distributed computing environment comprising the steps of:

managing a security policy via a policy manager; and
managing access via an application guard to securable components including at least one application as specified by the security policy.

82. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium of Claim 81 ~~A computer readable storage medium having stored thereon a method for maintaining security in a distributed computing environment comprising the steps of:~~

~~managing a security policy via a policy manager; and~~
~~managing access via an application guard to securable components including a function within [[an]] the application as specified by the security policy.~~

83. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium of Claim 81 ~~A computer readable storage medium having stored thereon a method for maintaining security in a distributed computing environment comprising the steps of:~~

~~managing a security policy via a policy manager; and~~
~~managing access via an application guard to securable components including a procedure within [[an]] the application as specified by the security policy.~~

84. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium of Claim 81 ~~A computer readable storage medium having stored thereon a method for maintaining security in a distributed computing environment comprising the steps of:~~

~~managing a security policy via a policy manager; and~~
~~managing access via an application guard to securable components~~ including a data structure within ~~[[an]]~~ the application as specified by the security policy.

85. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium of Claim 81 ~~A computer readable storage medium having stored thereon a method for maintaining security in a distributed computing environment comprising the steps of:~~

~~managing a security policy via a policy manager; and~~
~~managing access via an application guard to securable components~~ including a database object referenced by ~~[[an]]~~ the application as specified by the security policy.

86. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium of Claim 81 ~~A computer readable storage medium having stored thereon a method for maintaining security in a distributed computing environment, comprising:~~

~~managing a security policy via a policy manager; and~~
~~managing access via an application guard to securable components~~ including a file system object referenced by ~~[[an]]~~ the application as specified by the security policy.

87-89. (Canceled).

90. (New) The system of claim 57, wherein the application guard further allows for additional customized code to process and evaluate authorization requests based on the additional customized code.

91. (New) The system of claim 90, further comprising a global policy specifying access privileges of the user to securable components.

92. (New) The method of claim 72, wherein the application guard further allows for additional customized code to process and evaluate authorization requests based on the additional customized code.

93. (New) The method of claim 92, further comprising the step of providing a global policy specifying access privileges of the user to securable components.

94. (New) The computer readable storage medium of claim 81, wherein the application guard further allows for additional customized code to process and evaluate authorization requests based on the additional customized code.

95. (New) The computer readable storage medium of claim 94, wherein the method further comprises the step of providing a global policy specifying access privileges of the user to securable components.